

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/763,581

Examiner

Melvin H. Pollack

Applicant(s)

HAUN ET AL.

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment dated 11/07/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 1/11/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other see attached office action.

  
MHP  
JASON CARDONE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Vincent Lue on 11 January 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 6 (amended) A network computer (NC) client comprising:

A bootstrapping means for booting from a boot image provided by an NC server, the boot image including information identifying the location of one or more system volumes on the NC server, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software; and

A redirecting means, responsive to an attempt to modify the contents of the one or more system volumes, for causing information identifying a modification associated with the attempt to be recorded on the NC server separate from the one or more system volumes in a shadow system volume of a mass storage disk medium associated with the NC client.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

A network computer (NC) client booting from a boot image provided by an NC server, the boot image including information identifying the location of one or more system volumes on

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the NC server, the one or more system volumes containing operating system software that has one or more customizable attributes;

In response to a change to an attribute of the one or more customizable attributes, the NC client causing information identifying the change to be recorded on the NC server in a shadow system volume of a mass storage disk medium associated with the NC client that is separate and distinct from the one or more system volumes.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the examiner agrees with the applicant that the combination of limitations as currently drawn is both novel and non-obvious.
3. The invention is drawn to the embodiment of network computing, wherein clients may download operating systems from a server medium. The operating system is further separable into several parts, most notably a default portion that every client downloads, and a user-specific portion containing customization preferences. The latter is stored in a shadow system volume within a mass storage medium associated with the client and separate from the default portion's storage area, the locations of both included on the client's boot image.
4. The known art of NC computing, limited to that of customizable operating systems for downloading, teach away from the combination by utilizing either non-mass storage methods (i.e. caching units) or by storing both portions in a non-separated format. Thus, the combination is novel and non-obvious.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They regard background on network OS systems and mass storage networks.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H. Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Melvin H Pollack  
Examiner

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MHP

12 January 2007

*W. J. Polak*

  
JASON CARDONE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER